AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Folding machine to fold a continuous web material along transverse folding lines, comprising ~~at least one~~ a first folding roller provided with at least a first ~~one~~ mechanical gripping member to mechanically grasp the web material along a folding line; a second folding roller provided with at least a second mechanical gripping member to mechanically grasp the web material along a folding line, said first folding roller and said second folding roller structured to rotate in opposite directions with respect to each other and are arranged to have parallel axes and form a folding nip therebetween; a web feed path extending across said folding nip and along which said continuous web material is fed; a first gaseous flow member and a second ~~and a~~ gaseous flow member, associated with said ~~at least one~~ first gripping member and said second gripping member respectively, and constructed and arranged to generate a gaseous flow ~~which~~ at said folding nip to attract said continuous web material and insert a fold of said continuous ~~inserts the~~ web material alternatively into ~~said at least one~~ the first mechanical gripping member and the second mechanical gripping member when said first mechanical gripping member and said second mechanical gripping member pass said nip ~~in absence of a~~

~~folding blade~~, said first mechanical gripping member and said second mechanical gripping member being constructed and arranged to grasp the fold of the continuous web material after the web material has been inserted therein by said gaseous flow.

2. (Currently Amended) Machine according to claim 1, wherein said first gaseous flow member and said second gaseous flow member are each ~~is~~ a suction member to draw the web material towards said ~~at least one~~ first gripping member and said second gripping member, respectively.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein each said suction member is associated with a device to activate and deactivate suction as a function of an angular position of a respective folding roller of said ~~at least one~~ first folding roller and said second folding roller, the suction member associated with each said respective folding roller being active for a fraction of a complete turn of the respective folding roller.

5. (Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least ~~one~~ first mechanical gripping member comprises a movable element cooperating with a first stop, the web material being sucked by said suction member between said movable element and said stop.

6. (Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim 5, wherein said movable element cooperates with a second stop, said first stop and said second stop defining a slit essentially parallel to an axis of rotation of a respective folding roller of said ~~at least one~~ first folding roller and said second folding roller, the movable element extending in said slit.

7. (Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein each of said ~~at least one~~ first folding roller and said second folding roller comprises at least one cavity substantially parallel to an axis of rotation and opens on a cylindrical surface of the folding roller, inside which a respective gripping member is housed, and wherein a suction duct terminates in said cavity.

8. (Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein each of said at least one cavity is provided with means to limit effect of suction on one side of a movable element associated with said at least ~~one~~ first mechanical gripping member and said second mechanical gripping member, between the movable element and said first stop.

9. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein a first block defining said first stop is fixed in said cavity.

10. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 6, wherein a second block defining said second stop is fixed in said cavity.

11. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first block delimits a suction compartment in connection with said suction duct and is provided with a plurality of suction holes distributed along a longitudinal extension of said first block and terminating on a surface of said first block positioned on an opposite side with respect to said suction compartment and facing the movable element.

12. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein said movable element is supported by a shaft oscillating around its longitudinal axis, supported in said cavity, and wherein said first block has a sealing surface cooperating with said oscillating shaft, said holes terminating between the first stop defined by said first block and said sealing surface.

13. (Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein each of said ~~at least one~~ first mechanical gripping member and said second mechanical gripping member includes an elastic strip.

14. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 13, wherein said elastic strip is integral with said oscillating shaft and cooperates with said first stop.

15. (Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein each of said ~~counter-rotating folding rollers~~ first folding roller and said second folding roller is associated with a sliding block with a communication channel between a suction line and a suction duct in a respective folding roller of said ~~at least one~~ first folding roller and said second folding roller, said sliding block resting on a sliding surface of the respective folding roller.

16. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein said sliding surface is disposed on a front surface of the respective folding roller on which said suction duct terminates.

17. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein said sliding block is resiliently pushed against said sliding surface.

18. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein said sliding block has an elongated aperture communicating with the respective folding roller.

19. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein each said device to activate and deactivate suction is adjustable, to adjust positions in which suction is opened and closed as a function of the angular position of the respective folding roller.

20. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein said sliding block is disposed in a specific angular position adjustable with respect to the respective folding roller.

21. (Previously Presented) Folding machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein said sliding block is engaged with a flange coaxial to the respective folding roller, the angular position of which around the axis of the folding roller is adjustable.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Withdrawn And Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first gaseous flow member and said second gaseous flow member each includes an air ejection member to push the web material inside said ~~at least one~~ first mechanical gripping member and said second mechanical gripping member, respectively.

27. (Withdrawn And Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein on each said ~~at least one~~ first folding roller and said second folding roller an air ejection member and a gripping member are provided, arranged on diametrically opposed positions.

28. (Withdrawn And Currently Amended) Folding machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein said first gaseous flow member and said second gaseous flow member each includes at least one air nozzle.

29. (Withdrawn) Folding machine as claimed in claim 28, wherein said at least one air nozzle is a linear nozzle extending parallel to the axis of the at least one folding roller.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Canceled).

32. (Canceled).

33. (Canceled).

34. (Canceled).

35. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled).

37. (Canceled).

38 (Canceled).

39. (Canceled).

40. (Canceled).

41. (New) Folding machine according to claim 1, wherein said first gaseous flow member and said second gaseous flow member are constructed and arranged to generate an air flow which attracts the continuous web material from an opposing one of said first folding roller or said second folding roller into a respective one of said first

mechanical gripping member and said second mechanical gripping member, when a respective one of said first mechanical gripping member or said second mechanical gripping member passes said nip.

42. (New) Folding machine according to claim 1, wherein said first gripping member and said second gripping member each includes a respective first movable element and second movable element for mechanically gripping said web; said first folding roller is provided with a first projection extending parallel to the axis of the first folding roller, said second folding roller is provided with a second projection extending parallel to the axis of the second folding roller; said first projection and said second projection and said first gripping member and said second gripping member are arranged such that said first gripping member enters the folding nip in synchronism with the second projection and said second gripping member enters the folding nip in synchronism with the first projection; said first gaseous flow member and said second gaseous flow member and said first gripping member and said second gripping member are constructed and arranged such that the continuous web material is attracted by the gaseous flow generated by a respective one of said first gaseous flow member and said second gaseous flow member and detached from a respective one of said first projection and said second

projection and enters said respective one of said first gripping member and said second gripping member, a respective one of said first movable element and said second movable element being activated to pinch the continuous web material without mechanically cooperating with said projection.